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Smart's Family Champions Her Innocence

By TAMI PLYLER Union Leader Feb 20, 1991
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EXETER — The emotional strain the family of Pamela Smart has gone through is "horrible, unbearable and sometimes surreal," her mother said yesterday.

"I can't think of anyone who I dislike enough to put through this," Linda Wojas told reporters.

Wojas was on hand to support her daughter during the first day of jury selection in Smart's trial. She is accused of helping to plot the May 1, 1990, murder of her husband, Gregory, 24.

Gregory Smart was fatally shot in the head when he returned to the couple's Derry home. A Seabrook youth, William Flynn, 16, has pleaded guilty to the killing and police allege he and Pamela Smart were lovers.

Two of Flynn's friends, Patrick Randall and Vance Lattime Jr., recently pleaded guilty to being accomplices to the crime. The three teens met Smart, who was formerly media director at SAU 21 in Hampton, while she served as an advisor for a self-esteem group at Winnacunnett High School.

Wojas said her daughter's participation with that group proved to be a tragic mistake.

"If there is a God and He is watching over us, He'll see that justice is served," Wojas said. "All she (Smart) is guilty of is helping people less fortunate than her and that blew up in her face."

Since her arrest last August, Smart's family has stood by her, championing her innocence. Her father John, sister Beth, uncle John Rourke and aunt Donna Rourke, sat through the jury proceedings yesterday, then spent time with Smart before she was taken back to the State Prison for Women in Goffstown.

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Tami Plyler Photo

STRAIN — Pamela Smart's parents, Linda and John Wojas, said yesterday the strain on their family has been "horrible, unbearable." Linda Wojas said, "I can't think of anyone who I dislike enough to put through this."

PAM SMART'S PARENTS

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Mrs. Wojas said Smart is "doing unbelievably well under adverse conditions," and said her daughter is nervous, but pleased, the case is going to trial.

The family expressed concern over whether Smart can get a fair trial after the amount of media coverage the case has generated.

"I'm surprised when my daughter gets more press time than the President," John Wojas told reporters. "'It would almost be a laughable matter if it didn't involve my daughter."

Mrs. Wojas said Smart, who aspired to be a television anchorwoman, has been shocked by the news coverage and has told her repeatedly that she is ashamed she pursued a career in the media.

She asked the press to reserve judgment on her daughter until after the trial.

"I know Pame is a very good person, and also a forgiving person. If she is acquitted tomorrow Pame will be able to forgive everyone," she said, using Smart's nickname.

Mrs. Wojas said she was surprised at the recent plea bargains between the three teens charged in the case and the state.

"Gregg never got a plea, did he?" she asked. "He didn't get a plea at all."